

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified Application in view of the above amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested. This amendment supplements the Response filed on April 29, 2004 which was fully responsive to the Official Action dated November 4, 2003.

Claims 54-77 are pending in the Application. Claims 59, 60, 66, 67, 71 and 72 have been withdrawn from consideration and claims 73-78 are newly presented.

Applicants' representative thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended to him during the personal interview on May 4, 2004.

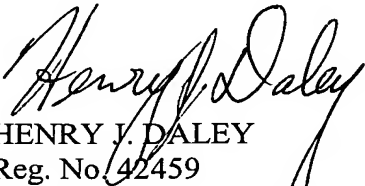
co: 95 { In this Supplemental Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 54, 61 and 68 to clarify that the eyepiece section provides an optical connector to the TV camera. This clarifies the intended meaning of the claims. In contrast, as noted in the Response dated April 29, 2004, the '655 patent describes an electronic endoscope that has a CCD arranged in the distal end of the endoscope which is electrically connected to external components. For example, the component 235 in Figure 25 is an electrical signal connector. There is no suggestion in the '655 patent that this could be made an optical connector at least because of the fact that the '655 patent describes the CCD as being placed at an image position of objective lens 231 and the focal length of the projecting lens 227, the focal length of the objective lens 231, the space between these components and other geometric factors are disclosed as being known to compute the distance R in order to generate the three-dimensional images (see column 22, lines 22-38). Since all these geometrical factors are important in generating the three-dimensional images as taught by the '655 patent, one would not simply take the CCD element 232 and remove it entirely from the endoscope and place it in an external component. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 54, 61 and 68, and claims dependent therefrom, are allowable over all references of record.

New claims 73-78 are fully supported by the original disclosure. For example, the Examiner's attention is directed to the embodiment described in Figure 11, and the related discussion in the specification.

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Respectfully submitted,
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